(ii) The Central Pollution Control Board has asked the Uttar Pradesh Pollution Control Board to ensure the upgradation of effluent treatment plants/providing tertiary treatment facilities including colour treatment by M/s. Vam Organic Chemicals Limited.

(iii) M/s.Vam Organic Chemicals Limited has been asked to study the possibility of utilisation of distillery effluents for irrigation purpose.

(iv) The industries have been directed to operate and maintain effluent treatment plant continuously and effectively.

(v) M/s. Vam Organic Chemicals Limited has been directed to take adequate measures for colour removal from the distillery effluent.

(vi) The UP Pollution Control Board has been asked to undertake regular monitoring of water polluting industries inGajraula area including the water quality monitoring of Bagad River.

(vii) M/s. Vam Organic Chemicals Limited has been asked to submit a time-bound action plan for implementing the schemes for control of pollution as mentioned by the industry in its presentation before the Sub-Committee on Environment-related issues of the Department related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Science and Technology, Environment and Forests.

(viii) The President of Industries Association at Gajraula has been asked to prepare an Action Plan for its member-units for controlling pollution of River Bagad and getting rid of abnoxious smell and coloured effluents generated by its member-units.

Hindi Staff In FCI

5966. DR. G. R. SARODE : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Food Corporation of India has Hindi staff as per the criteria prescribed by the Ministry of Home Affairs;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which the adequate Hindi staff is likely to be provided?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The questions do not arise.

[English]

Emergence of Crime Syndicates

5967. SHRI I.D. SWAMI : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court has issued directives to the Government to set up an independent body to investigate into the emergance of crime syndicates in different parts of the country;

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government in the matter;

(c) the number of cases relating to the emergence of crime syndicate which has come to light during the last three years;

(d) whether the nodal agency set up to keep tab on the activities of these syndicates is able to handle its job effectively; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (e) The Hon'ble Supreme Court, in its judgement dated 20.03.97 in the Public Interest Litigation filed by Shri Dinesh Trivedi, MP, and Others, has observed that matters relating to Politician-Criminal-Bureaucrat nexus need to be addressed by a body which can function with the highest degree of indepence, being completely free from every conceivable influence and pressure. The issues and options arising out of the said judgement are engaging the attention of the Government.

Information pertaining to individual cases of crime is not maintained by the Central Government. Broadly speaking, the nodal agency reviews the information available with different Central agencies relating to the activities of major crime syndicates and the course of action to be taken by field formations. The nodal agency is not a substitute for the Central/State Government agencies which are responsible for collection of intelligence, investigation and prosecution.

[Translation]

Impact of Economic Reforms

5968. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHUADHURY :
SHRI KASHI RAM RANA :

Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any studies have been conducted on the impact of economic reforms on poverty alleviation during the last three years;

(b) if so, the findings thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) whether any new formula has been adopted to determine poverty line; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) and (b) The studies on pvoerty are generally made from the National Sample Survey (NSS) date on consumer expenditure. The Planning Commission uses the quinquennial NSS date on consumer expenditure to estimate the incidence of poverty. The incidence of poverty for the two latest periods following the recently adopted official methodology, which is based on the Report of the Expert Group of Estimation of Proportion and Number of Poor, are estimated as 38.68% in 1987-88 and 35.97% in 1993-94.

(c) and (d) The Poverty line is defined in terms of monthly per capita consumption expenditure of Rs.49.09 in rural areas and Rs.56.64 in urban areas at 1973-74 prices corresponding to a basket of goods and services anchored on a norm of per capita daily calorie requirement of 2400 in rural areas and 2100 in urban areas. These rural and urban poverty lines of 1973-74 are disaggregated into state-specific poverty lines using the inter-state price differential of the year. These state-specific rural poverty lines are updated by the Consumer Price Index of Agricultural Labourers and urban poverty lines by the Consumer Price Index of Industrial Workers.

Production of Betel Leaves

5969. PROF. OMPAL SINGH NIDAR : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to launch a programme for boosting up the production and improving the quality of betel leaves during 1997-98;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the names of the countries to whom betel leaves are being exported?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) and (b) Government of India have decided that the programme for betelvine development will be taken up by State Governments from 1997-98.

(c) The Major countries to whom betel leaves are exported are Pakistan, Oman, USSR, UAE, Baharain, Kenya, UK, Canada, Kuwait, Yaman Arab Republic, Saudi Arabia, German Federal Republic, Brazil, etc.

Development of Himalayan Area

5970. SHRIMATI KETAKI DEVI SINGH :
SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA :
KUMARI UMA BHARATI :

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to formulate any National scheme for the balanced and integrated development of the Himalayan area to fulfil the basic requirements of the persons living there without disturbing the environment and forests of the area;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the said scheme is likely to be finalised?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) to (c) There is no proposal to formulate a National Scheme for the development of Himalayan area. The Planning Commission had set up an expert Group to evolve a National Policy for Integrated Development of Himalayas. A Steering Committee to oversee the implementation of the recommendations of the Report of the Expert Group on National Policy for Integrated Development in the Himalayas has been constituted by the Planning Commission. As per the decisions of the meeting of this Committee various Sub-Committees have been set up to draw action plans. In addition, the Planning Commission provides additional funds on 90% grants and 10% loan basis to partially hill states in Himalayas (UP,West Bengal and Assam), for environmentally sound development under an ongoing scheme - the Hill Area Development Programme (HADP).

Misuse of ISI Mark

5971. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT :
SHRI RAM SAGAR :

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that there is gross misuse of ISI mark by both the public and private sector companies;

(b) if so, the name of the companies and their products found misusing ISI mark;

(c) the action taken against them; and